GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3974
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2017
Accessibility to Safe Drinking Water
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Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country has the highest number of people in the world without access to safe drinking water and if so, the details thereof;
(b) the percentage of households who have access to safe drinking water in the country during each of the last three years and current year or the last three periods of data collection in this regard, State-wise;
(c) whether there is an urban-rural divide on access to safe drinking water and if so, the details thereof and if not, the data to support the same;
(d) the number of households in India who have tapped water connection during each of the last three years and the current year or the last three periods of data collected, State-wise;
(e) the role of the State Governments and the steps taken by them in providing safe drinking water to all the people in the country; and
(f) the steps taken by the Union Government for 100% coverage of safe drinking water?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
(SHRI RAMESH CHANDAPPA JIGAJINAGI)
(a) No Madam. As per World Bank data, 94% of population in India have access to improved source of drinking water. Moreover, as per information available on Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of this Ministry, as on 07.08.2017, 71.01 % of total rural population is Fully Covered (FC i.e. getting more than the norm of 40 litres per capita per day (lpcd) safe drinking water) and 23.37 % of total rural population is Partially Covered (PC i.e. getting less than the norm of 40 lpcd safe drinking water). Thus as per IMIS 94.38 % of rural population have access to safe drinking water.
(b) This Ministry maintains information regarding coverage of safe drinking water in terms of rural population and not in terms of household. State-wise details of rural population (in %) getting safe drinking water i.e. residing in FC and PC habitations during each of the last three years and current year are at Annexure-I.
(c) This Ministry under centrally sponsored scheme National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) provides drinking water supply in rural areas only. As reported by State on IMIS, as on 07.08.2017, out of total 17,26,104 rural habitations, 13,26,621 rural habitations (76.86 %) are Fully Covered; 3,24,948 rural habitations (18.83 %) are Partially Covered and 74,535 rural habitations (4.32 %) are Quality Affected (i.e. containing at least one chemical contaminant).
(d) State-wise number of rural households who have tapped water connection during each of the last three years and the current year is at Annexure-II.
(e) Rural drinking water supply is a state subject. Under NRDWP, the execution of rural water supply scheme is done by the respective State Government. States are free to plan, design and execute Rural Drinking Water Supply Scheme (RWSS) after getting the same approved by the State Level Scheme Sanctioning Committee (SLSSC). The respective State Government also set the target for timely completion of the schemes. This Ministry provides funds under NRDWP to all states under various components as envisaged in NRDWP guideline and matching fund is contributed by State Government. State Government further transfers funds to districts for execution of rural water supply schemes.
(f) Although rural drinking water supply is a state subject, this Ministry provides technical and financial assistance to the States for providing rural drinking water supply. Further, this Ministry has prepared a Strategic Plan for the rural drinking water sector for the period 2011-2022 for providing the piped water supply in the rural areas. As per this, by 2022, the goal is to ensure at least 90% of rural households are provided with piped water supply; and less than 10% use hand pumps or other safe and adequate private water sources. Moreover, this Ministry has also instructed the states to complete the schemes which are at advance stage of completion in the following order:
i. 100 % physically completed but financially incomplete
ii. More than 75 % but less than 100 % physically complete
iii. More than 50 % but less than 75 % physically complete
iv. More than 25 % but less than 50 % physically complete

While doing so, priorities are to be accorded by the states to the schemes meant for Arsenic / Fluoride affected habitation and Piped Water Supply Schemes for Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) Gram Panchayats (GPs), Declared Open Defecation Free (ODF) villages.